

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
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O P 111100Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8648
INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM
CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER
COMSIXTHFLT
CTF SIX ZERO
CTF SIX ONE
CTF SIX TWO
CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO
FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA
FOSIF ROTA SPAIN
DIA WASHDC
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI ASEC LE

SUBJ: LEBANESE SITUATION: JULY 11, 1200 HOURS LOCAL

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. UNEASY CEASE-FIRE CONTINUES TO HOLD. PIERRE
GEMAYEL SHOWED THE FIRST HINT OF OPTIMISM SINCE THE FIGHTING BEGAN.
BACHIR GEMAYEL SAID IT DID NOT MATTER WHETHER PRESIDENT SARKIS
RESIGNED OR NOT. DANY CHAMOUN, AMINE GEMAYEL AND GHASSAN TUENNI
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HAVE REPORTEDLY DRAWN UP A PLAN TO DEFUSE THE CURRENT CRISIS.
PRIME MINISTER AL HOSS REJECTED ISRAELI ATTEMPTS TO INTERFERE IN
LEBANESE AFFAIRS. A "HUNTING AMMUNITION PLANT" BLEW UP IN
SHTAWRAH. END SUMMARY.

2. CEASE-FIRE STILL HOLDING.

UNEASY CEASE-FIRE CONTINUES TO HOLD, ALTHOUGH OCCASIONAL SMALL ARMS FIRE, SNIPING AND SHELLING CONTINUE. ACCORDING TO REUTERS, THERE WAS A TEN MINUTE GUN BATTLE ON JULY 10, WHEN CHRISTIAN MILITIA BLEW UP A TRUCK TRYING TO RESUPPLY ABOUT 180 SYRIANS CUT OFF IN ASHRAFIYAH. THE MILITIA HAD PREVIOUSLY AGREED TO LET THE TRUCK THROUGH, REUTERS SAID. (THE LEBANESE FRONT MILITARY COMMAND ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE, HOWEVER, CLAIMING THE RIGHTIST MILITIA HAD ALLOWED "THE PASSAGE OF TRUCKS CARRYING FOOD TO AROUND 200 ARAB DETERRENT FORCES INSIDE THE RESIDENTIAL AREA OF ASHRAFIYAH.")

3. PIERRE GEMAYEL OPTIMISTIC.

IN A STATEMENT SHOWING HIS FIRST HINT OF OPTIMISM SINCE THE FIGHTING BEGAN ON JULY 1, PHALANGE PARTY LEADER PIERRE GEMAYEL PREDICTED THERE WOULD BE AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE LEBANESE SITUATION "IN ALL ITS ASPECTS," IKE REPORTED. GEMAYEL, WHO HAD JUST MET WITH SARKIS, SAID THE PRESIDENT'S RESIGNATION "APPEARS TO BE FURTHER AWAY TODAY THAN IT WAS THE FIRST DAY."

4. BACHIR GEMAYEL AS USUAL.

THE LEBANESE FRONT'S MILITARY COMMANDER, BACHIR GEMAYEL, TOLD LE FIGARO JULY 10 THAT IT WAS OF NO IMPORTANCE WHETHER OR NOT SARKIS RESIGNED. BACHIR SAID THAT THE SARKIS REGIME "HAS BEEN DISINTEGRATING FOR TWO YEARS" AND THAT "ONE DOESN'T GIVE UP POWERS ONE DOESN'T HAVE."
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5. PLAN FOR ENDING CRISIS.

A. ACCORDING TO AL ANWAR ON JULY 10, DANY CHAMOUN, GHASSAN TUENI, AND AMINE GEMAYEL HAVE DRAWN UP THE FOLLOWING PLAN FOR DEFUSING THE CURRENT CRISIS:

- MAINTENANCE OF THE CURRENT CEASE-FIRE.
- WITHDRAWAL OF ARMED CHRISTIAN MILITIA TO THEIR BARRACKS (SIC).
- REDUCTION BY STAGES OF THE NUMBER OF SYRIAN FORCES IN EAST BEIRUT AREA.
- DISCUSSION OF OTHER ISSUES, INCLUDING REBUILDING THE LEBANESE ARMY.

B. DANY CHAMOUN PRESENTED THE PLAN TO PRESIDENT SARKIS ON JULY 9, AL ANWAR SAID. THE PLAN WAS APPROVED BY THE PHALANGE PARTY BUT REJECTED BY CAMILLE CHAMOUN, THE PAPER ADDED.

6. HOSS ON ISRAEL.

ON JULY 10 PRIME MINISTER AL-HOSS ISSUED A STATEMENT AFFIRMING THAT "ISRAEL'S ATTEMPTS TO INTERFERE IN INTERNAL LEBANESE AFFAIRS

ARE REJECTED." HE ADDED THAT HE HOPED ALL LEBANESE "FACTIONS AND SECTS ARE MATURE ENOUGH" NOT TO GIVE ISRAEL THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXACERTATE THE CONFLICT IN LEBANON, IF THAT IS ISRAEL'S AIM.

7. EXPLOSION IN SHTAWRAH.

THREE PEOPLE WERE KILLED AND TWO WOUNDED WHEN A "GUNPOWDER DEPOT" IN A "HUNTING AMMUNITION PLANT" BLEW UP IN SHTAWRAH ON JULY 9, ACCORDING TO AN ADF COMMUNIQUE.

DECONTROL SEPTEMBER 1, 1978.

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